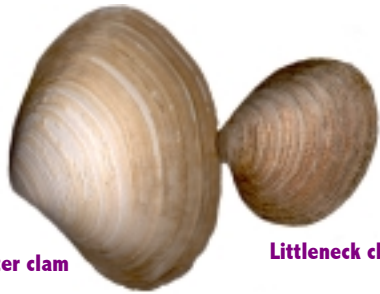


Clam shovels and clam guns are popular methods for razors. Guns do not work well on beaches containing significant amounts of gravel or rock.



Butter clam

Littleneck clam

### Butter clams and littleneck clams

Butter and littleneck clams inhabit rocky, gravelly, or otherwise rough beaches. Most people use rakes to dig them out. For these clams, you don't look for a "show", just choose a likely spot and start raking.

The butter clam shell is thick and white. There are heavy growth rings going around the clam, but no vertical ridges going up and down. The inner edge of the shell is smooth. Butter clams are generally 3 to 5 inches long.

Littleneck clam shells are usually white, but may also be brown or have brown markings. The shells have both circular growth rings and distinct vertical ridges. The inner edge of the shell is ridged like the edge of a quarter. Littleneck clams are generally about 2 inches long.

### General Clam Regulations

- ✓ Open season is year-round.
- ✓ No bag or possession limit.
- ✓ Clams may be taken only with rakes, shovels, manually-operated clam guns, or by hand.
- ✓ There's a special section of the Copper River Delta area that requires a permit before razor clamming. In waters east of 146 west longitude and south of a line from the southernmost tip of Point Bentinck to the southernmost tip of Point Whitshed, you must have a **razor clam fishing permit/harvest record**, which is available only at the ADF&G Cordova Field Office.

Also in this area, only razor clams that are 4 ½ inches or longer may be taken or possessed.

- ✓ No permits are required for any type of clam elsewhere in Prince William Sound.

### PSP

Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) is a sudden and potentially fatal illness contracted by eating clams or mussels that have concentrated a toxin present in plankton.

**None of the beaches in Prince William Sound are tested for PSP.** Cases of PSP have been rare in Alaska, but users consume all shellfish at their own risk.

In Alaska, the Department of Environmental Conservation is the agency charged with food safety.

Seafood Section

Food Safety and Sanitation Program

Department of Environmental Conservation

555 Cordova Street

Anchorage, AK 99501-2617

Phone: (907) 269-7640 Fax : (907) 269-7510

[www.state.ak.us/dec/deh/seafood/psp](http://www.state.ak.us/dec/deh/seafood/psp)

[home.htm](http://home.htm)

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## Shrimp and Clams\*

## in Prince William Sound



*\*\*All crab is closed in PWS*

## Shrimp

The most commonly-caught species are the spot shrimp and the coonstripe shrimp. Coonstripe shrimp (*Pandalus hypsinotis*) are very robust, have large heads, and have a series of dark bands on both legs and body. They are medium-sized.

Spot shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*) are the largest shrimp in the North Pacific. They are light brown to orange, with white spots just behind the head and just in front of the tail.

Both species are found over rocky, cobbled surfaces often in areas with sheer rock cliffs. Coonstripes usually stay in the shallower waters (3-200 fathoms). Most spot shrimp seem to be caught from waters around 60 fathoms deep, but can range from 2 to 250 fathoms.

Effective baits for shrimp pots include herring, chicken giblets, or anything with a strong smell.

### A SHRIMP PERMIT IS REQUIRED IN PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

✓ You may pick up your free permit from  
**ADF&G Sport Fish Anchorage Regional Office**

333 Raspberry Rd.  
(907) 267-2218

**ADF&G Sport Fish Fairbanks Regional Office**  
1300 College Road  
(907) 459-7207

**ADF&G Cordova Office**  
401 Railroad Ave.  
(907) 424-3212

**Valdez:**  
Hook, Line & Sinkers (907) 835-4410  
The Prospector (907) 835-3858

**Whittier:**  
Bread & Butter Charters (907) 472-2396

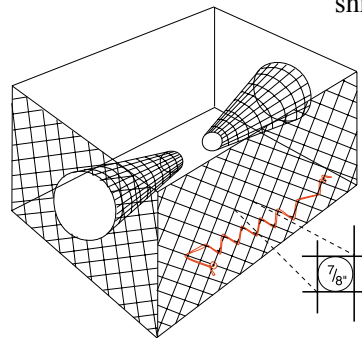
**Seward:**  
The Fish House (800) 257-7760  
**Chenega Bay IRA Council Office**  
**Tatitlek IRA Council Office**

- ✓ Open season: April 15 through Sept. 15.
- ✓ No more than 5 pots per person — maximum of 5 pots per vessel.
- ✓ Shrimp bag/possession limits: none
- ✓ Shrimp may be taken only with pots and ring nets.
- ✓ You may not buy, sell, trade or barter shellfish, their parts, or their eggs harvested in the sport or personal use fisheries.

### Shrimp Pot Regulations

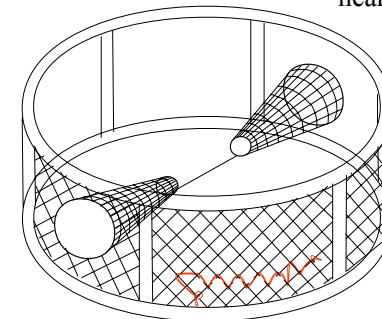
- ✓ Unattended fishing gear such as pots or ring nets must have a keg or buoy clearly marked with your
  - First initial, last name
  - Address
  - Name or U.S. Coast Guard number (AK number) of the boat
  - Shrimp permit number

- ✓ All pots must have an **escape method**. This allows the shrimp to escape if the pot is lost. The shrimp pot escape mechanism must be a minimum 6 inch opening in a sidewall (which may include a tunnel) of the pot. You may temporarily sew the opening only with a single length of untreated 100% cotton twine no larger than 30-thread. The cotton twine may be knotted only at each end.



- ✓ The minimum 6-inch opening must also be within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot, and parallel to the bottom of the pot.
- ✓ The cotton twine cannot be tied or looped around the bars holding the webbing.
- ✓ All square or rectangular shrimp pots must have at least two vertical or near-vertical sides that touch each other. A tunnel does not count as a "side." The two touching vertical sides must be made of uncovered net webbing or rigid mesh.

- ✓ Pots that do not have a definable side, like round pots, must have net webbing or rigid mesh panels covering at LEAST 50% of the vertical or near-vertical surface area of the pot.



- ✓ The net webbing or rigid mesh on all pots must be large enough to allow the unaided passage (without forcing, stretching, or deforming the opening) of a 7/8 inch diameter round wooden peg or dowel.

The selvage area is exempt from this requirement.

## Clams

Most clamming occurs from April through September, even though the open season is year-round. The "table quality" of the clam is generally considered best in early summer, before the July-August spawning.

There are many species of clams in the waters of Prince William Sound. Most people harvest razor clams, butter clams, and littleneck clams.

### Razor clams

The razor clam has an olive brown oblong shell with a varnish-like outer shell covering, and a white or purplish interior. Razor clams generally grow to lengths of 5 to 6 inches.

Razor clams are found in fine silt or mud beaches. Search for them during minus tides. Razor clams are found by the small circular dimple left behind by the clam as it burrows down in the sand. When this dimple or "show" is found, a scoop or two of sand is dug away beside the dimple and the clam is located by reaching into the sand at the side of the hole. Be careful not to dig too close to the dimple or the clam will be damaged.